



July 13, 2023

9:00 AM–10:00 AM – Community Center & Zoom

DRAFT BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES

9-10am. D. Burnham, B.Stern, K. Stevens were present.

7.13.23 Workshop Notes

B.Stern; E. Maggs, D. Burnham, B.Evans & K.Stevens were present at the Community Center; S. Malinowski was on zoom.

Draft Edited Minutes from the 6.22.23 Monthly Meeting are in the 7.27.23 Meeting Folder. Please make additional edits ASAP, so we can approve these minutes at the 7.27.23 Meeting.

Beth reported that not all team members have completed the first part of their evaluation form. Beth will follow up.

CWMP (formerly known as Sterling) bases their bid amounts on estimations of what the market prices are for metal. If they overestimate, there is a clause in the contract that says we may be refunded.

Casella (formerly Willimantic Waste) has new recycling pricing structure that dynamically follows the market's ups and downs. Bob suggests there are other companies with traditional (static) pricing structures that would accept our recyclables. Does anyone know of any?

Beth and Kate have loaded up a folder on Google Drive called Property. To date, there are 10 documents to be found there. Important to read and understand, so we don't ask for work to be done that has already been done.

Bob reported on Pickett Power LLC's Solar Field Project

At the ICB Meeting, Utility Co. Chair, Tom Siebens, stated hesitation on the part of the Utility Co. to cooperate with any solar projects. Bob hesitates to endorse because he is unsure that leasing the Pickett Landfill to a solar company meets our fiduciary responsibility. Kate asked if we can give them enough of a greenlight to start the project feasibility and development phase. Bob proposed that Pickett Power could go ahead with Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)* Kate pointed out that FIWMD does not need to be involved in any negotiations between the Utility Co. and Pickett Power. It was agreed that it is important not be a road block and that the project will have a better chance of succeeding with FIWMD's greenlight. Bob states we can do this with a MoU. Bob would like to create a list of conditions. David sees nothing to stop us from going forward and asked Bob to share the Lease Agreement; David will ask our lawyer to review it prior to our next meeting. Bob doesn't think leasing the Landfill is a priority. Kate says we can multitask and suggested delegating our testing obligations to the Pickett Power. Bob will share the lease agreement.

David and Bob will ask Pickett Power. if an MoU is enough for them to get started.*

Kate reported that the Conservancy is willing to work with us on the Compost Station Vegetation Buffer.

David reported that there are 4 street trees gifted by the town for use at the CS property. There may also be a little money in the town budget for planting and initial upkeep. It was suggested that the two ornamental non-native cherries could be planted in front of our building, to soften our exposure. The two native maples could be part of the new Buffer.

David will take a look at the dead trees in the Buffer to determine if we can leave them there as ecosystem facilitators or if they are a safety hazard and need to be cut down.

Coastal Path: Kate and Sarah reported:

There is momentum in turning the unusable (for Waste Management) western arc of the Compost Station Property into a public benefit. The Commission has been working toward this goal off and on with the Museum for the past 20 years. Bob is opposed to a permanent arrangement with the Museum, feeling it is out of our remit as a special tax district, and wonders if this kind of action requires a referendum. Kate suggested an alternative strategy could be for FIWMD to do a land swap with the town, trading the Coastal Path area that is unusable for our operations for land to the east of the Compost Station that is. This could facilitate future consolidation which would be a benefit to the taxpayers by lowering our operation costs. Then the town could pursue the arrangement with the Museum to develop the coastal edge into a natural and historic path for the public. David stated that the land swap with the Town makes sense. It's an important goal to allow the community to benefit from the Coastal Path and added land to our station toward the current Town Salt barn, makes sense.

High commuter costs. Kate has created a spread sheet so we can review and understand the commuting costs of our employees. Bob asked if Popeye can be a subcontractor, but then stated there would be tax implications. Kate suggested having the workday include the boatride could be one way to offset the high costs. She also noted the commute on the Ferry is even more expensive. She is researching to see if there is any grant money to promote economic development in geographically disadvantaged communities that could be used to subsidize the cost of taking the boat.

Personal Days: Currently, the Handbook provides for a number of paid days off, including sick days, vacation days, wellness days, personal days, bereavement days. It was suggested we put them all under the one heading of personal days. We could state that sick days are included in the personal days to meet the state mandates for such.

Harassment Prevention: NYS has updated requirements.

Handbook: David shared Race Rock's system of keeping policies in a 3-ring binder Handbook. This way, policies can change mid-year and only the relevant pages need to get swapped out. This system had appeal compared to our system of keeping track of the policies we want to change and making those changes once a year.

Transfer Station: Because Casella has single stream recycling, when the cardboard compactor is full, we can put cardboard in with the bottles and cans. David said our existing compactor is fine. Don't squish the bottles and cans too much because that prevents the recycling center sensors from being able to identify the materials. Composting household organics is taking off, but not without problems. Lots of ick factor.

Cyber Security: Bryan Mayo quoted Beth \$195/month for basic security. David will check what level Race Rock has and share.

David thanked Kate profusely for all her work this summer expanding the compost program.

The Workshop adjourned at 11:44

Respectfully Submitted by,
Sarah Malinowski

*A memorandum of understanding (MoU) is a type of agreement between two (bilateral) or more (multilateral) parties. It expresses a convergence of will between the parties, indicating an intended common line of action.[1] It is often used either in cases where parties do not imply a legal commitment or in situations where the parties cannot create a legally enforceable agreement. It is a more formal alternative to a gentlemen's agreement.

*The lease proposed by Pickett Power has been sent to James Squicciarini, Deputy Town Attorney for comment

*A memorandum of understanding is not secure enough for Pickett Power to get started in the feasibility and development phase